

Claims:

1. A polymer polymerized from monomers including:
 - (i) an unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer;
 - (ii) a monoethylenically unsaturated monomer different from the carboxylic acid monomer; and
 - (iii) a macromonomer comprising a hydrophobic portion and an alkoxyated portion which is polymerizable with the carboxylic acid monomer and the monoethylenically unsaturated monomer;characterized in that the monomers further comprise from about 0.5 to 50 wt. %, based on the total weight of the polymer, of at least one monomer having latent crosslinking functionality.
2. The polymer of claim 1 wherein said monomer having crosslinking functionality comprises a carbonyl-containing monomer.
3. The polymer of claim 2 wherein said monomer is selected from the group consisting of acrolein, methacrolein, diacetone acrylamide, diacetone methacrylamide and vinylaceto acetate.
4. The polymer of claim 1 wherein the amount of the monomer having crosslinking functionality is from about 5 to 50 wt. %, based on the total weight of the polymer.
5. The polymer of claim 1 having a number average molecular weight of from about 5,000 to 20,000 g/gmol.
6. The polymer of claim 1 having a number average molecular weight of from about 20,000 to 200,000 g/gmol.

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7. The polymer of claim 1 wherein the amount of the macromonomer is from about 5 to 50 wt. % based on the total weight of the polymer.

8. The polymer of claim 1 wherein the amount of the macromonomer is from about 1 to 20 wt. % based on the total weight of the polymer.

9. A two stage latex binder polymer comprising:

- (i) a first stage polymer polymerized from at least one acid or anhydride functional monomer; and
- (ii) a second stage polymer polymerized from monomers which are substantially free of acid or anhydride functionality:

characterized in that: (a) the number average molecular weight of the first stage polymer is at least 50,000 g/gmol; and (b) at least one of said first polymer or said second is polymerized from a monomer having latent crosslinking functionality effective to enhance the chemical resistance properties of films formed from the latex polymer.

10. The latex binder polymer of claim 9 wherein said first polymer comprises at least 2 weight percent of the acid or anhydride functional monomer based on the total weight of said first polymer.

11. The latex binder polymer of claim 9 wherein said first polymer comprises at about 5 to 50 weight percent of the acid or anhydride functional monomer based on the total weight of said first polymer.

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12. The latex binder polymer of claim 9 wherein said first polymer comprises at about 10 to 20 weight percent of the acid or anhydride functional monomer based on the total weight of said first polymer.

13. The latex binder polymer of claim 9 wherein said first polymer is in a dissolved form.

14. The latex binder polymer of claim 9 wherein said first polymer is in a swollen or partially dissolved form.

15. The latex binder polymer of claim 9 wherein said monomer having crosslinking functionality comprises a carbonyl-containing monomer.

16. The latex binder polymer of claim 15 wherein said monomer is selected from the group consisting of acrolein, methacrolein, diacetone acrylamide, diacetone methacrylamide and vinylaceto acetate.